[*English*]

Vayudoot flights to North-Eastern Region

5408. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vayudoot flights catering to the North-Eastern region are irregular;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to improve these services?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). The operations of Vayudoot in the North-East Region have been somewhat irregular due to inclement weather and technical snags. Steps have been taken to improve the availability of aircraft for operations in the North-Eastern Region.

Saloon used by Rabindra Nath Tagore

5409. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state:

(a) whether some efforts are underway to restore the originality of railway saloon used by Late Shri Rabindra Nath Tagore during his journey from Howrah to Bolpur in 1941;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the background and highlights of this saloon; and

(c) the estimated amount to be spent for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Si r.

(b) This saloon had been built in 1921 by Liluah workshops of the then East Indian Railways. It is a wooden-body coach and had been used by the then COPS of East Indian Railways at the time Rabindra Nath Tagore undertook his last journey by train.

This coach having become uneconomical to be maintained in operation and had been in dis-use for more than a decade. In view of the historical background, the coach had not been processed for condemnation and disposal.

(c) Rs. 58,000/-have been spent in repairing and renovating the coach.

[*Translation*]

More Trains on Bareilly-Kasganj line

5410. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of up/down passenger trains that are running on Bareilly-Kasganj metre-gauge line;

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce more passenger/goods trains on this railway line; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) (a) 6 trains each in both Up and Down directions.

(b) No proposal at present.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Rail line from Tumkur to Davanagere

5411. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for construction of a new railway line between Tumkur and Da'vanagere via Sira, Hiriyur,